



STATE OF WASHINGTON

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES**

Economic Services Administration  
Division of Child Care and Early Learning  
P.O. Box 45480, Olympia, Washington 98504-5480

December 15, 2005

Dear Child Care Stakeholder:

Coming Soon! This is to let you know of an important change that will increase the ability of parents and child care consumers to get information about licensed child care providers. Please share this information with others in your local area who may have an interest in child care.

During the 2005 legislative session, a bill focusing on consumer information for child care customers (Engrossed Senate Substitute Bill 5806) was passed. The intent of the bill was to allow parents of children in child care to more easily access information about licensed child care providers.

One provision included in the bill was a directive to the Division of Child Care and Early Learning (DCCEL) to create an interactive internet site that allows parents easier access to information about child care providers. That requirement is now in RCW 74.15.310.

DCCEL has completed work on an interactive web application and it will be made public during mid-January 2006. The web application allows a search for child care facilities by name or phone number. The result of that search displays license information for each licensed child care provider, the name and contact information for the licensor, the contact information for the toll-free information line (1-866-48CHECK), and a list of valid complaints beginning the day that ESSB 5806 went into effect (July 24, 2005).

Although almost all of the licensing file (including complaint information) is a matter of public record and available to anyone who contacts DCCEL, we will only be publishing information about valid complaints on the website. There will be a notice to the public that more information is available by contacting the 1-866-48CHECK line or the licensor. It is important to note that none of the information published on the website will be new information or information that is not already available to the public – all information published on the new website will be information that is currently available for the asking.

We will be arranging demonstrations of the program (as space and time are available) for groups of interested child care providers and stakeholders during the coming weeks. Please contact Roberta Morley (360-725-4672) to arrange a demonstration for your group.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel Roalkvam".

Joel Roalkvam, Licensing Policy Administrator  
Division of Child Care and Early Learning

cc: DCCEL Staff